

the Cuban people, the regime added somewhere between 14 years and 37 years to his sentence.

Now the dictatorship is trying a different tactic to silence Mr. Martin, they are refusing to provide him with adequate medical care after a fish bone got caught in his throat. According to his sister, Mr. Martin has lost considerable weight as he is only able to ingest liquids due to his untreated throat condition.

Despite the gangster tactics and heinous threats against him, Mr. Martin refuses to back down and be silenced by the totalitarian regime. He still bravely continues to demand human rights and dignity for the Cuban people. On November 5, 2007, Mr. Martin released the following statement for the Cuban people from his prison:

Cuba is a big prison which the regime has filled with prisons, poverty, famine and disease. The communist thugs have subjected us to this for 48 years. Hopefully, soon we will see freedom in the beautiful land of our birth, and that nobody has to flee . . . I reiterate my affection, respect and love, from the No. 3 cell of the Melena del Sur prison, in Havana province, to all who in one form or another, struggle for the independence and freedom of Cuba.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that Carlos Martin Gomez is locked in a filthy dungeon for calling for human rights and freedom for the Cuban people. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Carlos Martin Gomez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING DELMER WALLEN, SR.

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of Delmer Wallen, Sr., a true asset to the First Congressional District of Tennessee, who passed away January 28, 2008.

Delmer Wallen, Sr. lived a life of service and entrepreneurship, and was known by all for his compassion to all those around him.

He was born in Kyles Ford, Hancock County, Tennessee and lived in Kingsport for most of his life. Mr. Wallen was employed as president and general manager of Kingsport Grocery Company thirty-two years. He was in the wholesale grocery business for forty years managing multiple companies.

A great community leader, Delmer Wallen, Sr. served on numerous boards including Holston Valley Community Hospital and the Salvation Army in Kingsport, Tennessee.

In 1986 Delmer served as president of the Harlan County, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Sullivan County Republican party which further shows his commitment to the community that he lived in.

Delmer was also a fifty-year member of the American Legion and served this great country in the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Delmer also showed his commitment to his faith by regularly attending West View Primitive Baptist Church. During his time spent with West View Primitive Baptist Church, Delmer served in various positions such as church treasurer and adult Sunday school teacher.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Delmer Wallen, Sr. He was a dedicated member of the community, the church, and the United States and a true friend of the First District. His service is greatly treasured and he will be deeply missed.

HONORING RETIRING WEST SEN-
ECA TOWN COUNCILMAN CRAIG
HICKS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the public career of Craig Hicks.

As a councilman to the Town of West Seneca, a thriving community of 46,000 hard-working residents, Craig spent a great deal of time protecting their ideals and values. During his tenure the town continued its rich heritage and continues to develop into a town of great commercial growth, providing a kind atmosphere to live, work and raise a family. This remained possible as a result of all of the hard work of the town's public officials, and Craig's efforts as a member of the town board demonstrate that commitment.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in extending appreciation to Craig Hicks for his dedicated service and commitment to his community. We wish Craig and his entire family only the very best of health and happiness long in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING
OF THE STEVEN E. COPELAND
GOVERNMENT CENTER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the grand opening of the Steven E. Copeland Government Center in Cross Roads, Texas in Denton County. The grand opening for this new facility is Friday, February 22, 2008.

The center is named in honor of the late Steven Everett Copeland, an enthusiastic employee of Denton County Road and Bridge East. Mr. Copeland is remembered by his fellow workers and supervisors as a person who took pride in a job done well and was dedicated to giving his best to the citizens of Denton County. This center is dedicated to honor both his memory and his contributions to the local community.

This center will provide the citizens of Denton County increased access to county services and local government officials, including the County Commissioner for Precinct 1, Constable, County Clerk, Justice of the Peace, Tax Assessor, Probation Officers, and the Denton County Sheriff. Many local officials have already moved into the new facility, saying it allows them to be closer to their constituents and provides more efficient access for the public. Local residents are able to pay county taxes, register vehicles, and receive new license plates for their vehicles.

Along with these government offices, the Steven E. Copeland Government Center will also house a community room which is available to the public for use. Denton County has committed itself to providing the best for its citizens, and this new center is a shining example of that commitment.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Denton County Commissioner Cynthia White and the Commissioners Court on the opening of this facility. I am proud to represent Denton County in the 26th District of Texas and look forward to seeing the positive effects this center will have on the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional district.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

- (1) Rollcall No. 29: "Yes" on Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 867;
- (2) Rollcall No. 30: "Yes" on Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 942;
- (3) Rollcall No. 31: "Yes" on Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 943.

HONORING SY LENZ, OF SONOMA,
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize the gentleman honored by the City of Sonoma as 2008 Alcalde—Honorary Mayor of the Year—Sy Lenz. The honorary position of Alcalde has been bestowed each year since 1975 on a person who has enhanced the welfare of Sonoma by his or her unselfish contributions to the community.

As Alcalde, Sy will be given a silver-headed cane as a symbol of his distinction and will appear in parades, grand openings and other special events throughout the year.

Although Sy and his wife, Harriet, have lived in Sonoma since 1989, when they moved here to be near their daughter, Sy leapt directly into community service. He used his talents as a retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel and executive recruiter to volunteer on the strategic plan for the local school district. He also became active in the Kiwanis Club and with La Luz Center, a local nonprofit serving immigrants, as well as founding and developing Congregation Shir Shalom.

"One project I worked on was an attempt to establish an in-town teen club," Sy says. "We raised thousands of dollars hopefully to find a site, and although it remained out of our reach, it lead to the creation of the 'No-Name Café' at Sonoma Valley High School."

Sy's service is not limited to the younger generation. He has participated in delivering